

27 1989

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.)

- AGAINST -)

ARAKI, SADA0, et al.)

A F F I D A V I T

I, WAKAMATSU, Tadakazu, do swear on my conscience that the following is true:

On December 8, 1941 I was the head of the General Affairs Section of the General Staff. I continued as such until December, 1942, when I was appointed head of the Third Section of the General Staff, the functions of which were transportation and communications, and I served as such until October, 1943. During the summer of 1942 the decision to construct the Burma-Siam Railroad was made by the Imperial General Headquarters in response to a request from the Southern Army. There were three purposes for the construction of this railroad, (1) to have overland communication between Siam and Burma, (2) to provide a necessary supply line for the Japanese armies operating in Burma, and (3) the exploitation of tungsten deposits along the route, which were needed in munitions manufacture.

Submarine and air attacks had made water communication very difficult and there were no other means of communication between Siam and Burma. The decision to use prisoner of war labor on this railroad was made by the Chief of Staff, SUGIYAMA; the Minister of War, TOJO; and the Vice-Minister of War KIMURA, (the last named through his official position, though not basically responsible).

I made one inspection of the Burma-Siam area about the end of July or the beginning of August, 1943. I visited Rangoon, Bangkok, and a portion of the railroad from the Siam end. It was during the rainy season and the work was not progressing satisfactorily. I made this inspection because I had been receiving reports from time to time which showed that progress of the work was not satisfactory. The reports also contained information that the physical condition of the prisoners of war working on the railroad was poor, and that the death rate was very high. I had heard that cholera was epidemic and that caused me considerable worry. I observed the laborers at work on the railroad and saw many cases of dysentery and beri-beri amongst them. I also inspected the feeding of the prisoners of war,

and it was not satisfactory, the quantity and quality being below the required standard. I orally reported the results of my inspection to the Chief of Staff, General SUGIYAMA and the Vice Chief of Staff, Lt. General HATA, in Tokyo, and recommended a two months' extension of the deadline for the completion of the railroad. The original plan of the road had called for completion date as of December, 1943, and during March 1943, orders were given by the Chief of Staff to complete the road over a higher grading, doing away with cuts, which would be less useful but which would result in the road being completed by August, 1943. I recommended, after having taken this trip, that a two months' extension to October be granted. Upon my return to Tokyo, I recommended that Major General ISHIDA, Higuma be placed in charge of the railway construction outfit, as I considered that he knew railway construction, and was thoroughly familiar with the rear echelon function of supply.

Many deaths of prisoners of war resulted from the building of this road. The causes were epidemic diseases and unfavorable weather. The construction outfit did not have a proper commissary service. There were not enough trucks, and the truck road which was built in April parallel to the railroad, suffered bridge wash-outs and could not be used for some time. It was intended to be used during the rainy season, but this proved to be difficult and prisoners and other workers had a very difficult time as a result. Because there were not enough trucks, it was thought necessary to employ more personnel, and because more personnel were employed, the food situation became more difficult. I recommended to the Commander of the Southern Army that more trucks be used and fewer men.

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Tokyo,
Japan this 31st day of October, 1946.

/s/ T. WAKAMATSU
Tadakazu WAKAMATSU

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher 2nd Lt. AUSMI
Investigator IPS

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Eric W. Fleisher, hereby certify that I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages and that I truly and correctly translated from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English the oath administered to WAKAMATSU, Tadakazu, the nature and purpose of which oath was fully understood by the said affiant.

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher
2nd Lt. AUSMI
Investigator IPS